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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 349
By Burchett

A RESOLUTION To honor and congratulate Ernie Roberts on his selection as High School Teacher of the Year for Knox County.

WHEREAS, It is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding teachers who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Ernie Roberts, an educator for twenty years, has recently been honored as High School Teacher of the Year for Knox County; and

WHEREAS, A sterling scholar, he is a graduate of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville where he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree with a double major in Spanish and Mathematics, and a Master's Degree in Mathematics; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Roberts began his illustrious teaching career in the Knoxville Job Corps, where he conscientiously taught GED Math and Science classes; and

WHEREAS, In 1980, Ernie Roberts accepted a teaching position at Fulton High School, where he taught Foundation I and II and Algebra II; and

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WHEREAS, This remarkable educator began teaching at Bearden High School in 1983; during the course of his tenure there, he has taught AP Statistics, Honors Geometry, Algebra I, Foundation I and II, Algebra II, Computer Math, Community-Based Learning, and Homebound; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Roberts, a valuable member of the Bearden faculty, serves as a sponsor for the Key Club, a service organization that encourages students to volunteer; the Bearden Key Club is the largest Key Club in Tennessee and Kentucky; under his leadership, the club has answered phones for public television, cooked and cleaned at Ronald McDonald Houses, ran Special Olympic track events in Knoxville, and, in a four-day weekend trip, helped clean up a home for abused boys in Awendah, South Carolina that had been damaged by Hurricane Hugo; and

WHEREAS, Ernie Roberts also ably serves as the school's basketball announcer and the Bearden High School Awards Program Emcee; and

WHEREAS, Working to help all his students reach their potential, this conscientious educator started the first Advance Placement statistics course in Knox County and offers one-on-one tutoring before and after school; and

WHEREAS, A part-time actor, Mr. Roberts teaches his students math formulas to the tune of Frere Jacques, delivers his lessons in different accents, and draws caricatures on the board for line-of-sight problems; and

WHEREAS, The epitome of the dedicated teacher, Ernie Roberts is involved in many professional associations and activities, including the Knox County Education Association Negotiations Team, Bearden High PTSO, Smoky Mountain Mathematics Educators Association, National Council Teachers of Mathematics, Knoxville Chamber of Commerce Leadership Education Alumni, and the College Board Experienced AP Statistics Teacher Workshop; and

WHEREAS, A highly respected leader, he has served as the Cooperating Teacher and Mentor for the UTK Department of Education, State Math Test Writer, Curriculum Guide Writer,

Co-Chairperson for the Knox County Textbook Committee, and Coordinator for the Community Based Learning Experience; and

WHEREAS, In addition to receiving Knox County's High School Teacher of the Year Award, Mr. Roberts has been recognized as the Bearden High School Teacher of the Year for 1995 and 2001, and as Outstanding Young Educator of the Year by the Greater Knoxville Jaycees for 1992-93; he was honored with the Greater Knoxville Chamber of Commerce best Award in 1990; and

WHEREAS, Active in his community, Ernie Roberts has participated in numerous community programs, including serving as on-air talent for PBS's pledge drives, UT Football Parking Organizer and Coordinator for Ronald McDonald House, and as a member of the Board of Directors for the Knoxville Choral Society; he has also volunteered with the National Kidney Foundation Chocolatefest, Empty Stocking Fund, and Second Harvest Food Bank; and

WHEREAS, Outside of school, he puts his theatrical talents to use as a vocalist with the Knoxville Opera Company Chorus, as an actor in television commercials, and as a member of Word Players, a Christian performing troupe; he has also served as Emcee for the Appalachian Ballet Company's performances of *The Nutcracker* and its spring shows; and

WHEREAS, A faithful member of the Central Baptist Church of Bearden, Mr. Roberts sings in the Adult Choir and participates in Sunday School programs; and

WHEREAS, Ernie Roberts is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to his fellow human beings; he epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated volunteer, and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, Whether he is teaching in his classroom, serving in his community, or performing on the stage, Mr. Roberts is an inspiration to his students and his colleagues; a source of wisdom, encouragement, and enthusiasm, he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCURRING, That we hereby recognize Knox County's High School Teacher of the Year, Ernie Roberts, applaud his dedication to his students, his school, and his community, congratulate him on his numerous achievements, and extend to him our heartfelt wishes for every continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.